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On the Cover

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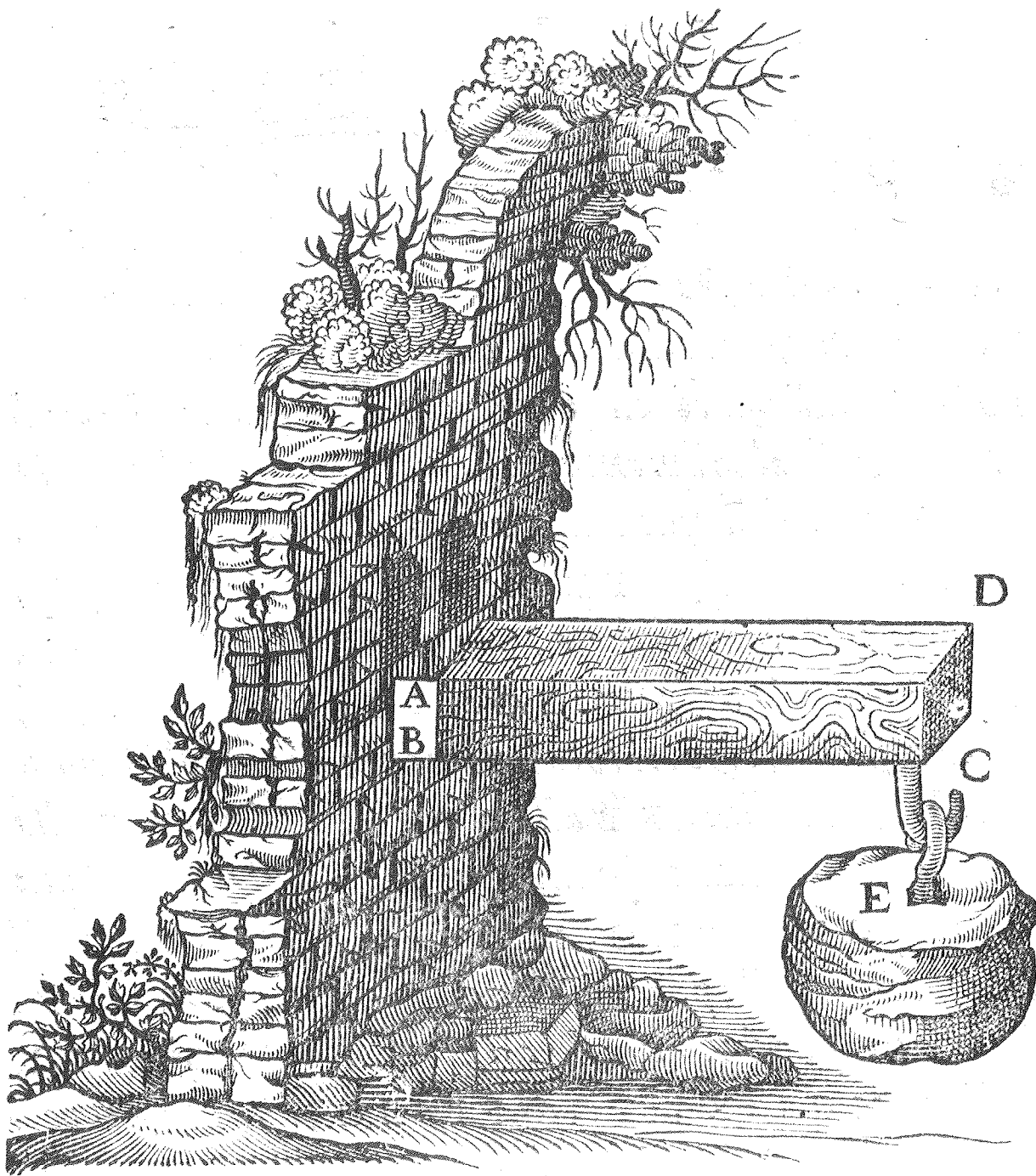
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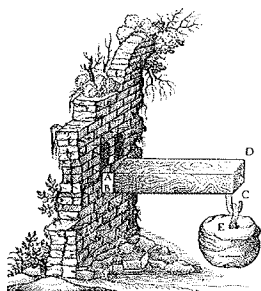
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On the Cover



In addition to defending the Copernican system, and discovering the principle of inertia, Galileo made intensive studies in a new science, the strength of materials. Studying the load on a beam, he found that the strength decreases as the length increases, unless you increase the thickness at an even greater weight. You cannot, therefore, simply double the size of a structure and expect it to carry double the weight. His illustration of a cantilever beam in *Discorsi e dimonstrazioni matematiche intorno à due nuove scienze* (Leiden, 1638) demonstrates his discovery that the breaking force on a beam increases as the square of its length. (Photo and caption courtesy of the Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering & Technology).

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